

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-05 IGA-02 NEA-05 INR-09 CIAE-00 IO-09

SR-02 ORM-01 /093 W

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R 232020 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336

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AIDAC

FOL TEL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY MADRAS FM CALCUTTA
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

QTE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY AGENCY FEEDING PROGRAMS

REF: CALCUTTA 494

1. AS INDICATED PARA 2 REFTEL, GOWB SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF MINISTER ASNTOSH ROY APPROACHED ME AT SOCIAL FUNCTION MARCH 16 WITH PLEA FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO CONTINUE AND IF POSSIBLE INCREASE THEIR AID- SUPPORTED FOOD- FOR- WORK (FFW) PROGRAMS. IN LIGHT HIS REQUEST I INVITED LOCAL REPS OF CARE, CRS AND CASA TO REVIEW THEIR PROGRAMS WITH ME.

2. ALL THREE CONFIRM HAVING HAD REQUESTS FROM GOWB FOR INCREASES IN THEIR FEEDING PROGRAMS. (CRS HAS ALSO HAD REQUESTS FROM ORISSA AND CASA FROM BIHAR. CALCUTTA CARE OFFICE HAS JURISDICTION IN WEST BENGAL ONLY.) REQUESTS HAVE COME FROM MINISTERIAL AS WELL AS DISTRICT LEVEL AND APPEAR TO REFLECT CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT FOOD SITUATION MORE SERIOUS THAN OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD INDICATE AND THAT IT IS GOING TO GET WORSE IN NEXT TWO- THREE MONTHS.

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3. ALL THREE AGENCY REPS REPORT GOWB DOING BETTER JOB THAN EVER BEFORE ON FFW PROJECTS, WHICH NOT SIMPLY MAKE- WORK "ROAD REPAIR" BUT DESIGNED FOR LONGER- RANGE DEVELOPMENTAL VALUE. THIS FACTOR, IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS NEED, MAKES VOLAGS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT WE BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO REQUESTS FOR HELP, A VIEW WE WHOLEHARTEDLY SUPPORT.

4. AID/ DEL WOULD EMERGE. BOTH SEDNEY AND LACHMON SAID THAT, IN EVENT OF EARLY ELECTIONS, KEY ISSUE WOULD BE WHETHER SURINAM " WILL HAVE A DEMOCRATIC OR COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT". THIS IS TACIT RECOGNITION THAT, IN EVENT OF EARLY ELECTIONS, THE UNIONS WOULD ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN WHICH CASE THE PARTIES IN GOVERNMENT COALITION WILL RELY HEAVILY ON ALLEGATIONS ALREADY VOICED BY LACHMON AND SEDNEY THAT " COMMUNIST ELEMENTS" AND " FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES" ARE BEHIND STRIKE.
JOHNSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE03334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaibvz.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CALCUTTA 494
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971217
Subject: VOLUNTARY AGENCY FEEDING PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, IN
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005